#14/4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 09/899,498

Filing Date: 07/05/2001

Inventor: Cynthia L. Bristow

Title: **DETECTION OF SURFACE –ASSOCIATED HUMAN LEUKOCYTE ELASTASE**

Examiner: David A.Saunders

Group Art Unit: 1644

AMENDMENT

Hon. Assistant Commissioner of Patents:

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of October 22, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend page 6, lines 12 to 22 to read as follows:

"The HLE on the plasma membrane of lymphocytes and mononuclear phagocytes is fairly well characterized. Thus, the epitopes characteristic of receptor structures, and their ability for accessible binding to an immunoreagent (e.g.antibody mimic), is simply a matter of choice. In one of the preferred embodiments of this invention, the immunoreagent suitable for use in the method of this invention is capable of immunochemical interaction with at least one of the catalytic triad of the HLE membrance surface proteins and the lipid interactive amino acids of the HLE membrane surface proteins. This catalytic triad of HLE (domain 1) is composed of amino acids His (41), Asp (88), and Ser (173). Lipid-interactive amino acids of the HLE (domain 2) is composed of amino acids Phe (170), Ala (187), and Arg (191); and these amino acids are proximal to the catalytic triad. The HLE specific immunoreagent for use in the